

Seven things we must not forget.

1/ The message we carry is the message of God's Kingdom

Jesus preached it: Luke 8:1 Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the **kingdom of God**.

He told the disciples to preach it: Luke 9:2 and he sent them out to proclaim the **kingdom of God** and to heal.

After the resurrection he preached it: Acts 1:3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the **kingdom of God**.

Early disciples preached it: Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached **good** news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ

Paul preached it: Acts 19:8 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the **kingdom of God**.

What is the message of the kingdom? 7 primary marks of the kingdom are

1. Deliverance or Salvation (Isaiah 61:1)
2. Righteousness & justice (Isaiah 32:1)
3. Peace (Isaiah 9:6)
4. Joy (Isaiah 9:3)
5. God's presence (Isaiah 60:1)
6. Healing (Isaiah 32:5)
7. Comfort (Isaiah 51:3)

Many preach the gospel of salvation. This is part of the message of the kingdom. But the message of the kingdom is BIGGER than just salvation. If we just understand salvation, then we can be saved and yet wonder what we're to do with the rest of our lives. When we understand the kingdom we realize that we are saved not just for our own sakes but to become agents of God's kingdom on earth. That wherever we go we must seek to bring the kingdom of God (the king's domain) by destroying the works of the evil one and releasing heaven on earth.

And remember:

a) Kingdom is now and not yet.

b) Kingdom must be demonstrated (Luke 9:2) but people are not allowed to demand a sign before they believe (Matt 12:39)

c) This demonstration includes but is not all about signs and wonders. Jesus emphasized healing & deliverance in his own ministry and his training but he also talked about a simple cup of water (Mark 9:41). It's both/and not either/or.

2/ The most important thing is the King

a) His presence. Nothing of any value gets done without him and relationship with him is the ultimate aim.

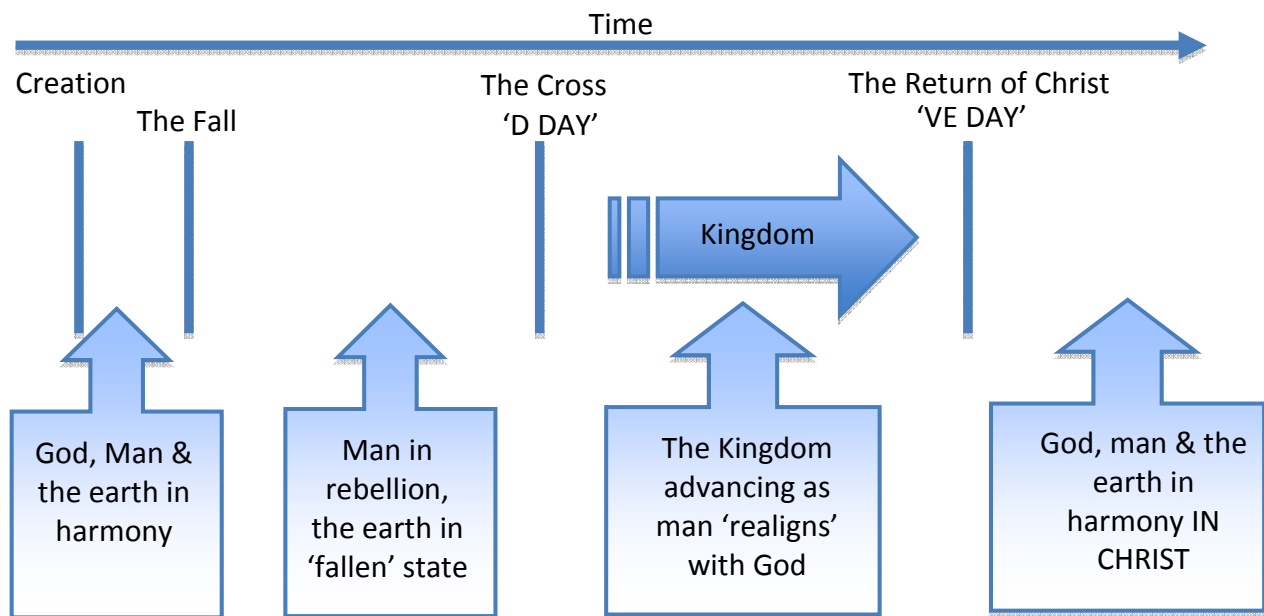
b) He is good all the time.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. I lay down my life for the sheep

If you have allowed any situation in life to cause you to come to the conclusion that God is not good then you have come to the wrong conclusion.

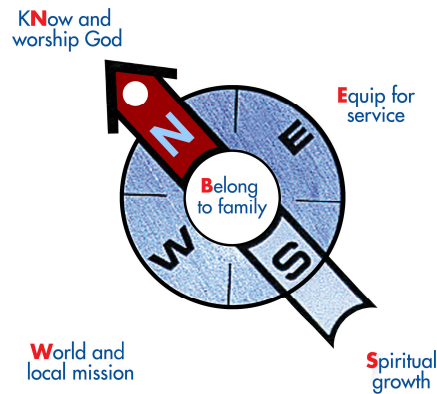
c) Need to have a greater expectation of what he wants to do

3/ That disappointment is toxic to the kingdom



- a) the Kingdom is now (Matt 3:2) but not yet in all it's fullness (Rev 21:3).
- b) Disappointment (offense with God) will cripple us if left un-dealt with (Luke 7:23)
- c) One cure: giving thanks. It allows us to absorb what God has done (Matt 16:9)
- d) Another cure: perseverance (Luke 18:3)

4/ There are 5 strands to our outworking of the kingdom



We must not lose this DNA!

5/ The kingdom is for kids

Luke 18:16 But Jesus called them to him, saying, **“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

As parents we hold the primary responsibility to train our kids how to love God, how to worship, how to pray, how to study the bible, how to bring the kingdom. It is unwise to expect this training to happen solely in an hour on Sunday morning – it must be a lifestyle.

Here are some tips

- Let them see you love Jesus
- Engage them with stories
- Keep working on the basics
- Make it fun & everyday
- Let them have a go
- Allow them to challenge you

6/ The kingdom comes through risk & boldness (Luke 16:16).

7/ Expanding the kingdom is costly

- a) emotional cost
- b) financial cost